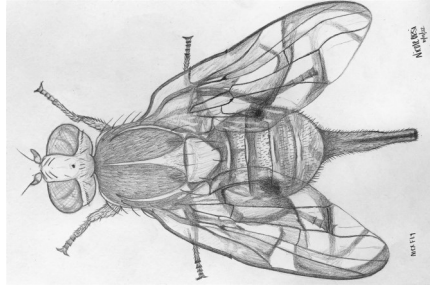


San Diego County Entomology Newsletter



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Mexican Fruit Fly by N. Orsi

Invasive Pest Update— Black Fig Fly

Black Fig Fly (*Silba adipata*) was first detected in San Diego County in 2021. It has been reported in 6 counties other than ours: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The Lab has noticed a significant increase in reports of this pest this summer. 2023 appears to be the first year this fly is receiving widespread notice from residents as it impacts their summertime fig harvests. Due to this, we wanted to provide a refresher on the signs of this pest as well as the messaging the Lab is giving to residents based on information we have received from CDFA.

Signs

- Premature drop of unripened, green figs.
- Small exit holes on outside of figs.
- Internal damage in figs due to larval feeding.
- Small black flies near fig's ostiole (hole on "bottom" of the fruit.)

Apiary Program

The AWM Apiary Program participated in the APHIS National Honey Bee Survey (NHBS) on May 9, 2023, a comprehensive examination of colony health throughout apiaries in the United States. The survey, which began in 2009, compiles data from across the US on the apiary pests present in different regions. Hive material is also tested for pesticide residue to assess both the variety and quantity of pesticides present in honey bee hives. The data collected has improved understanding of geographical variations in viral, pest and pesticide loads, and is highly valuable to beekeepers and researchers. The data is available to the public on the Bee Informed Partnership Online Research Portal located at <https://research.beeinformed.org/>. CDFA has conducted the NHBS throughout California for several years, but this was the first time AWM was invited to accompany CDFA. AWM's Apiary Inspector assisted the CDFA State Apiary Inspector with conducting the survey at several apiary locations in San Diego county. At each location, eight separate colonies were sampled which required collecting a sample of live adult bees, a sample of bees in alcohol, larva, and pollen.



Figure 2. Internal damage to the fig from larval feeding.
Photos: H. Wilson



Figure 3. Exit hole from larva burrowing out of the fruit.



Figure 4. BFF pupa found inside of a fig.

Photos from UCANR Pest Alert– Black Fig Fly

Additional Information

- We do not need samples from residents– CDFA only requests samples if it is unusual (e.g. infesting an uncommon fig type) or if it is in an industry setting.
- There are currently no approved treatments for Black Fig Fly in California. University of California is researching effective treatments.
- Best control measure is immediate removal and disposal of dropped figs or figs displaying symptoms. We ask residents not to move infested figs off property.



Photos clockwise from top left: Collection of live adult bees, a hive inspection, collection of larvae to test for varroa mite presence/load, collecting pollen to test for pesticide residue.
Photo credit: B. Wheeler

Lab Updates

The biggest update the Lab has this quarter is staffing related. After two years of serving as our Agricultural Scientist, Dr. Bodil Cass left AWM in May for a position with University of California Riverside. She is succeeded by former Sr. ASI Tyler Tkachuk. IDS II Nicole Orsi who served as the Lab aide also left AWM, and is succeeded by IDS II Danielle Gomez-Heller.

The Lab has currently been operating out of COC as the new staff get up to speed and settle into their roles. However, we plan to resume weekly visits to SMO shortly. An email notification will be sent out when these visits are set to resume.

Favorite Samples & Acknowledgements

The Lab would like to thank all staff who stepped in to help with duty coverage during this transitional period. Specifically, the Lab would like to thank IDS II Danielle Gomez-Heller, Sr. ASI Jaime Garza, and Supervising ASI Bonnie Wheeler. Some of our favorite samples this summer did not prompt regulatory action but were interesting to see nonetheless– see photos right and information below.

Top: Green Lacewing (Chrysopidae) larva collected by Tyler Tkachuk.
Bottom: Already hatched Hemipteran eggs with one non-viable hatchling (dark spot in top left) collected by Matthew Forgey.
Photos: T. Tkachuk



Contact the Lab or Apiary Program

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